

# NORBERTUS



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# FROM THE PRINCIPAL



**One** of the great joys of my role as Principal of the College is seeing and welcoming past students back to the College, or indeed, bumping into them in the community. It is so joyous because of the positive way in which these interactions occur. Much of the conversation swings quickly to the SNC days, the year we left, the teachers or friends we keep in contact with, always ending with an invitation from me to come back anytime.

These interactions are happening among many of the past and present St Norbert College community members over and over again, throughout the local, national and international world.

The beauty of *Norbertus* is that it doesn't have to be face-to-face or the spoken word. I, like many others I'm

sure, have that same feeling of positivity and belonging when I read about the exploits and adventures of those students and staff of the past in this wonderful publication.

My familiarity with the names included in this edition brings back so many fond memories of my past as a student and staff member, and I expect it does the same for many of you.

It is often written, "Memories keep yesterday alive" and so I thank those who have contributed to this edition and Mr Frank Mulligan for his work in piecing our tapestry together, keeping our own St Norbert College memories alive.

God bless.

Simon Harvey  
Principal

# FROM THE EDITOR

**Welcome** to *Norbertus*, the magazine dedicated to keeping you up to date with the exploits, achievements and events of the alumni of St Norbert College.

As Principal Mr Simon Harvey points out, catching up with former students of the College is a real pleasure, and *Norbertus* is continually amazed at the wide variety of fields in which St Norbert College alumni are making an impression.

In London Jonelle Thomas is thriving in the high-pressure world of accounting, in the USA Luke

Petersen and Frank Johnson are building their basketball profiles, in Sydney Nicole Lamb is giving back to society through her not-for-profit youth organisation and charity, in Canberra Commander Leigh Jackson is awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal for his services to the Australian Navy, and in Perth, jockey Jerry Noske is making her mark in the Sport of Kings.

As usual we catch up with some former staff members, check in with SNESA President Rafic Aoun to see how The Saints are faring in their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, pop in to a few alumni reunions, and meet the next generation of some St Norbert's families.

Our guest columnist Mr Mick Devine played an important role in the history of the College and *Norbertus* can't help but wonder if the magnificent academic results achieved by the Class of 2017 are in some small way linked to the efforts of dozens of Norbertines and teachers like Mick who over the years have worked

tirelessly to build the great College that St Norbert's is today.

Please enjoy Issue 31 of *Norbertus* and feel free to make contact at [fmulligan@norbert.wa.edu.au](mailto:fmulligan@norbert.wa.edu.au) with feedback and alumni news and photographs.



Frank Mulligan  
Editor

# My Wonderful Life's Journey

## AT ST NORBERT COLLEGE

MR MICHAEL (MICK) DEVINE – GUEST COLUMNIST

The guest columnist for this edition of *Norbertus*, Mr Michael (Mick) Devine, has made an outstanding contribution to many facets of the St Norbert College we are familiar with today. A Queens Park local, raised just a stone's throw from Treasure Road, Mick worked at the College from 1969 to 1983 as a primary school teacher, secondary school mathematics teacher, Senior Master of Mathematics and Deputy Principal, before becoming foundation Principal of Lumen Christi College in 1984. In addition to these roles, however, Mick put his heart and soul into many other tangible and intangible pursuits that contributed greatly to weaving the fabric of what has become the St Norbert College community today.

Mick's influences at St Norbert College were many and varied, ranging from developing discipline systems, ensuring clear and concise organisational and communication lines, drawing up policies and procedures enshrined in the College and Staff Handbooks, introducing the study of Japanese, and overseeing the establishment of the *Koinonia* magazine. Mick also played an important role in the development of the College's sporting programs, served as 1<sup>st</sup> XVIII coach, made a large contribution to the establishment of the ex-students association SNESA, and was one of the founding fathers of the SNESA football club which celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

The 1983 edition of *Koinonia* included a farewell article to Mick which paid tribute to his many contributions to St Norbert College. The article concluded: "These (contributions) and many others - unsung - were typical of the high standards Mick Devine set himself. His performance has been outstanding, his contribution over fifteen years has been a cornerstone of our development and his continuing friendship is valued by us all".

St Norbert College is indebted to Mick for his remarkable legacy and his ongoing interest, love and support for the College and its community.

*Norbertus* salutes Mick Devine and is grateful and honoured that he is this edition's guest columnist.



Mr Michael and Mrs Catherine Devine.

**My** wonderful life's journey at St Norbert College started at the end of Term 1 in 1969 when I was appointed to teach Year 6. As a young man then it was a great opportunity and a great challenge to be part of the development of a young school in the local community.

I always remember how blessed I was and how blessed Catherine and I were, with our young family, to be part of the St Norbert College community. We were always nurtured and personally encouraged by the Norbertine community – and, in particular, by the Prior, Fr Peter O'Reilly.

This column contains some of my reflections and knowledge of how St Norbert College was special and how it developed. Of course, whatever is written

is one very incomplete story. There are so many students, staff, parents and community members with countless 'good stories' to tell. I have no doubt that today's College and students, not only reflect this story, but have a myriad of new strengths and initiatives. Nonetheless, my story is one of joy and thankfulness.

St Norbert College, since inception, has always given special emphasis to community, pastoral care and an active faith and prayer focus – all being fundamental to the overall educational process. These qualities were cultivated by the founding members of the Norbertine community and especially by the Prior, Fr Peter O'Reilly, and by the staff and parents of the College. These foundation qualities became part of the overall leadership of the College provided by the early principals, the Management Advisory Board, the Executive Staff Team and all the staff. These qualities have remained a cornerstone of the nature of St Norbert College. Of all the myriad of snapshots I could record, I have chosen just a few key reflections of my time as a member of the St Norbert College community.

Clearly, the students of the College, as for any good school, were the prime focus and motivation for the entire educational enterprise. The students of St Norbert College were special. They always had a positive and open approach. They were fun-loving, genuine, honest and 'salt of the earth' in their approach to their education and the College. They would

# My Wonderful Life's Journey AT ST NORBERT COLLEGE

'have a go' rather than complain. Even though I could tell hundreds of 'good stories' about students I believe the students should tell their own stories. The students were a source of motivation, joy and purpose for us all.

The spiritual and religious development of St Norbert College was significant during my time at the College. As the Perth Archdiocesan Guidelines were starting to be developed, St Norbert College set up a Regional Centre, under the auspices of the Western Australian College of Advanced Education and the Catholic Pastoral Institute, to enable teachers within the South East region to study units in the Graduate Diploma in Religious Education Studies. This was an innovative and pro-active step by the College to promote enhanced curriculum delivery in religious education for our students.

The liturgical celebrations were all enhanced by a young Norbertine, Fr William Fitzgerald, who enlivened the ministry of music with the formation of the choir in 1973 and assisted the promotion of the students who had joined the Guild of St Stephen for altar servers. As the faith dimension of the College blossomed, many important educational developments were occurring at St Norbert College. Some examples of the responsive and innovative approach of the College included:

- St Norbert College was the first Catholic College to introduce the study of the Japanese language as part of an Australian government initiative to promote Asian languages – and from 1976 participated

in a language project facilitated via the Curriculum Development Centre in Canberra and directed by Professor Anthony Alfonso of the Australian National University.

- A coordinated careers program was initiated in 1974 to assist students' career planning. Visits to the Careers Reference Centre, guest speaker visits and a coordinated program of interviews with students by a team of staff plus the accumulation of literature and tapes in the College library, was coordinated by Neville McManus. Although this is common practice today in schools, St Norbert College was proactive and student-focused in these initiatives back in 1974.
- A special curriculum initiative was introduced in 1983 to provide a range of courses in Year 11 for students who were uncertain of their career options and who were not planning tertiary/TAFE studies. This highly successful program, a response to specific educational priorities of several Year 11 students at the College, was coordinated by John Hulshoff, Kathy Jones and John Hammond. To this day students in that program indicate that it was a great influence on their transition to 'life after school' and the 'world of work'.

The parent community, the parish and wider community and the staff provided outstanding community witness and support for the students of the College. The very development and building of the early College facilities was significantly funded through several fundraising programs. Parents, community and staff were outstanding in their generosity

and support for the fundraising initiatives. The practical support of parents and community members in providing time, skills and 'in-kind' support was outstanding. The early development of the College owes its facilities success to this community support. Government building grants were matched by the spirit, enthusiasm and funding support of the community.

It has been one of my greatest blessings to be part of the foundation years and the developmental years of the educational community of St Norbert College. The people of the College (students, staff, parents, the wider community and the Norbertine community) are life-long memories and blessings. I still keep a keen interest in the College and many people tell me 'how great SNC is now'. It is wonderful to see the involvement and participation of students in the 'liturgy of the church' and their active involvement in the 'good works' of the church and of the Norbertine tradition.

There are so many other very significant people/aspects/policies/initiatives – too many to record in one article. Many of these are recorded in the Silver Jubilee Milestones productions and the College annuals.

May God's blessings always empower St Norbert College and all its community to be prepared for every good work.

Thank you for the opportunity.

Mick and Catherine Devine and family



Newly married Mick and Catherine shortly after Mick commenced teaching at St Norbert College.



Mick pictured with fellow staff member André Papineau in 1983.



From Koinonia, 1983: Mick shows some colleagues the plans for Lumen Christi College where he was foundation Principal in 1984.



This year is the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the SNESA Amateur Football Club. Mick, along with his brother Brian (right) and Mark George were the driving forces behind the establishment of the club.



# Excellent Results

## FOR THE CLASS OF 2017

The excellent academic results achieved by the Class of 2017 were recognised during the first College assembly in Term One.

St Norbert College Principal, Mr Simon Harvey, praised the hard work and dedication of the members of the Class of 2017 and also paid tribute to the guidance and support the students received from their teachers and families. Mr Harvey also took time to acknowledge the fact that students were fortunate to attend St Norbert College and implored the younger members of the College community to take advantage of the opportunities the College provided and to strive to emulate the level of academic success of the Class of 2017.

Mr Harvey highlighted the following outstanding results from the 2017 academic year:

- The St Norbert College median ATAR of 87.6 ranked fourth in Western Australian Catholic schools and 18th in all secondary schools in WA.
- 100% of VET students achieved a Certificate II or higher.
- 96% of students received a WACE Certificate.
- St Norbert College was ranked a top-performing school in Health Studies and Physical Education.
- St Norbert College achieved the highest scores for CEWA schools in Computer Science, Japanese as a Second Language and Psychology.
- 77% of students who applied for a public university position received their first preference.



*Reece Don, Gabriel Nge, Jasdeep Jutla, Joyce Zhuang and Belinda Donovan make up the 2017 '95 Club' for achieving ATAR scores over 95.*



*Certificate of Merit winners Kamitha Naidu, Mason Marshall, Jack Higgs, Caleb White, Ellen-Rose Ward and Jimmy Ton.*



# Excellent Results

## FOR THE CLASS OF 2017

St Norbert College Dean of Studies, Mr Rod Dowling, highlighted some of the individual academic achievements of members of the Class of 2017 who were presented with a certificate and gift from Mr Harvey:

- 2017 '95 Club': Joyce Zhuang, Jasdeep Jutla, Gabriel Nge, Belinda Donovan and Reece Don.
- Joyce Zhuang achieved the highest St Norbert College ATAR of 99.3 and was awarded a Certificate of Distinction, as was Jasdeep Jutla.
- Chloe McLevie received a Certificate of Distinction.
- Gabriele Nge, Belinda Donovan, Reece Don, Tara Dally, Kaitlyn Fashho, Jack Higgs, Viduni Liyanage, Mason Marshall, Lisa Moffat, Kamitha Naidu, Jimmy Ton, Ellen-Rose Ward and Caleb White received Certificates of Merit.

Class of 2017 member Joyce Zhuang addressed the assembly of staff, students and parents and shared some of her tips on how to successfully navigate the various demands of Year 12. Joyce recommended that Year 10 and 11 students should identify their academic strengths and weaknesses, assess their study techniques and then carefully select subjects that suit their abilities, interests and goals. She expressed gratitude to all the staff at St Norbert College, especially her Year 12 teachers for their care, advice and for putting up with her terrible handwriting which "deteriorated exponentially as the year progressed". Joyce concluded her speech by saying that students needed to put in the effort, but help was always at hand. "High school is a tough journey especially during exam periods," she said, "but if you give it your best and listen to the advice of your teachers, you'll get a result that you can be proud of." Joyce is currently studying law and commerce at the University of Western Australia.

*Norbertus* congratulates the members of the Class of 2017 on their excellent performance and wishes the Class of 2018 well as they approach the second half of their academic year.



*Joyce Zhuang, who received the highest St Norbert College ATAR score of 99.3, addresses the assembly.*



*Jack Higgs receives his award from Mr Harvey.*



*Livinia Cupitt-Neville, pictured with her mother Alicia Cupitt, achieved a VET Certificate of Excellence for being in the top 0.05% of candidates who completed an AFQ Certificate II or higher in each national industry area in their final year.*







The Class of 2008.



The 2008 St Norbert College Leadership Team: Mr Donald Nield, Ms Sharon Rainford, Mrs Franca Coutts and Mrs Desirée Grzenda-Day.



Mrs Mollie McPartland was awarded the Br Patrick Doolan Medal.

# 2008

## St Norbert College

**PRIOR:** Fr Peter Joseph O. Praem

**PRINCIPAL:** Mrs Desirée Grzenda-Day

**DEPUTY PRINCIPALS:**

- LEARNING: Mr Donald Nield
- PASTORAL CARE: Mrs Franca Coutts

**DEAN OF STUDIES:** Ms Sharon Rainford

**HEADS OF HOUSES:**

- KILNACROTT: Mr Don Parnell
- MAGDEBURG: Dr Killian O'Reilly
- PRÉMONTRE: Ms Helen Moore
- TONGERLO: Ms Erica Bursey
- XANTEN: Mr Simon Schmidberger

**HEADS of DEPARTMENTS:**

- RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Mr John Van Nus
- ENGLISH: Mrs Anna Garton
- MATHEMATICS: Mrs Joan Davies
- SCIENCE: Mrs Maria Byrne
- SOCIETY & ENVIRONMENT: Mr Bronson Gherardi
- HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Mr Mark Pavy

**MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD:** Mrs Dianne Begg (Chairperson), Mrs Annette McRae, Mrs Gloria White, Mr Keith George, Mr Paul Kelly, Mrs Desirée Grzenda-Day, Fr Peter Joseph, Mr Donald Nield and Mr Michael Papali who oversee:

- Strategies to accommodate the impending arrival of Year 7 students in 2010
- Preparation and planning for the construction of the Br Patrick Doolan Centre

**PARENTS and FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION:** Mr Kevin Bradshaw (President), Mrs Shelley Verren (Vice-President), Mrs Janine Parker (Secretary), Mrs Tracey Burgoyne (Treasurer), Mrs Robyn Kelly and Mrs Jennifer Morrison who oversee:

- Contributing to the cost of honour boards for the Specialised Basketball Program
- Subsidising the cost of Year 12 subject revision courses
- Allocating funds for the future purchase of electronic smartboards and additional seating in the Year 8 area
- Providing hospitality and catering for College functions and events

# 2008

## St Norbert College



The College administration building was refurbished towards the end of 2007 and opened in 2008.



Mr John Hulshoff retired after 37 years' teaching at St Norbert College.



Katelyn Isard (Class of 2008) is currently a staff member at St Norbert College.



Philip Harris was College Dux for 2008.

**ENROLMENT:** 689 students

**DUX:** Philip Harris

**HEAD BOY:** Philip Harris

**HEAD GIRL:** Alysha Madden

**SRC PRESIDENT:** Christopher Hanssen and his fellow SRC members provided a voice for the students and contributed to the organisation of the College ball, the rivercruise, St Norbert Day showbags, fruity Friday, Nintendo week and Olympics week

#### **HOUSE CAPTAINS:**

- **KILNACROTT:** Jamie-Lee Salt, Brenton Hush, Hannah Preston
- **MAGDEBURG:** Jake O'Driscoll, Kimberly Greygoose, Matthew Wedge, Kirstie Hewitt
- **PRÉMONTRÉ:** Danielle Calautti, Reece Carvallio, Andrew Owen, Brianna Pheasby
- **TONGERLO:** Paris Curthoys, Katelyn Isard, Matthew Smith, Courtney Gray
- **XANTEN:** Rebecca Osborn, Michael York, Lindsay Troutman

**PRINCIPAL'S MEDALLIONS:** Philip Harris, Alysha Madden, Sunila Rajan, Katelyn Isard, Hannah Preston

**NORBERTINE CANONS' AWARD:** Emma Longcake

**BR PATRICK DOOLAN MEDAL:** Mrs Mollie McPartland

#### **WINNERS OF SPORTS CARNIVALS:**

- **SWIMMING:** Tongerlo
- **CROSS COUNTRY:** Prémontré
- **ATHLETICS:** Magdeburg

**CHAMPION HOUSE:** Prémontré



# SAYING 'YES'

## TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES

*Jonelle Thomas*

Jonelle Thomas (Class of 2008) was a member of Mrs Celeste Grosser's Prémontré Homeroom and is now working as an assistant manager at international accounting firm, Ernst & Young. Jonelle is currently on a three-month secondment to head office in London and she hopes to do some travelling in northern Europe at the conclusion of her working stint. *Norbertus* was recently in London and was pleased that Jonelle was generous enough to take some time out of her very busy schedule to tell us about her life since leaving St Norbert College.

**Norbertus (N):** Welcome to *Norbertus*, Jonelle, and congratulations on your career and your secondment to work in one of the most important financial centres in the world. This must be an amazing opportunity for you.

**Jonelle Thomas (J.T.):** Thank you very much. Yes, this has been a wonderful chance for me to broaden my career experience and also combine my posting here with some travel to a few Scandinavian countries, which I am really looking forward to.

**N:** *Norbertus* has heard you are quite passionate about travel. Where else have you been?

**J.T.:** Yes, I have been fortunate enough to travel quite extensively through the United Kingdom, western Europe, the United States and some Asian countries including Japan,

Thailand and Vietnam. Travel is a great chance to learn about new cultures and explore new places. I have also been lucky enough to combine my love of the Italian language and Italy with some study there. Shortly after leaving St Norbert College I completed a five-week course at the Università degli Studi di Bergamo, and in 2012 I completed a six-month course at L'Università Bocconi in Milan.

**N:** Is *Norbertus* correct to assume your love of all things Italian started way back at Treasure Road when you studied Italian?

**J.T.:** That's right. My favourite subject was Italian and my favourite teacher was Miss Travaglione who made learning a language exactly what it should be – fun! She brought enthusiasm to the class, and I continued with Italian studies right through university which has also brought a lot of fantastic travel and life experiences.

**N:** Do any other subjects or teachers spring to mind?

**J.T.:** I loved history as I found it very interesting and it prompted my interest in travel and learning about other cultures. Mr Mulligan was an interesting and inspiring teacher and always taught with enthusiasm. I remember him for the phrase: "Could've, should've, would've. Didn't", when anybody had failed to complete their homework! Other favourite teachers were Mrs Grosser, Mr Harvey (Prémontré Head of House), Mr Parnell and Miss Chung (English teachers) and Mr Pavy (physical education).

2008  
*St Norbert College*



*Jonelle Thomas (Class of 2008) is an assistant manager at accounting firm Ernst & Young.*

**N:** Apart from your academic studies, what were one or two of your memorable moments at St Norbert College?

**J.T.:** For me the standout experiences of my time at the College were the outdoor education camps, Year 10 camp and also the Year 12 history trip. These were fantastic experiences that enabled us to build our friendships, challenge ourselves and step outside our comfort zone. I look back at my time at the College and appreciate the sense of community it offered.

**N:** Do you still keep in touch with any of your former classmates?

**J.T.:** My two best friends today - Zoe Parker and Jess Harrison - I met at the College and I see them on a weekly basis. Other classmates I catch up with intermittently.

**N:** Did you have a particular teacher, or a particular year or time period which helped you decide on your career path or aspects of your life in general?

**J.T.:** Year 12 stands out as a very important year for me. All of my teachers made me realise that I was capable of more than I had initially thought. I remember my teachers being very supportive throughout that year for me to get the grades I needed for my first preference at the University of Western Australia, and at the end I did. I chose a course at university and a career based on subjects I enjoyed, and my time at the College helped me discover these interests and attributes.

**N:** It's great you had the support of the staff, and that, combined with your dedication and commitment, has led to you building an outstanding career and having a wonderful, interesting life. *Norbertus* thinks your story, Jonelle, should be a source of inspiration to our current students; that goals and dreams can come true if you are prepared to work hard. If any of our St Norbert College students are reading this article, what would you like to say to them?

**J.T.:** Never think that a goal you may have is unattainable. If there is something you would like to achieve, work out a plan on how you can achieve it and get cracking. Always back yourself; if you think you can do it, you probably can!

**N:** That's great advice, Jonelle. Can you please give *Norbertus* readers a brief overview of your studies after leaving St Norbert College?

**J.T.:** After leaving St Norbert's I studied at UWA for four years, completing a Bachelor of Commerce (in corporate finance, financial accounting and a business law minor) and a Diploma of Modern Languages (Italian studies). As I mentioned previously, I also enjoyed studying at some universities in Italy.

**N:** *Norbertus* is quite impressed with the juxtaposition of the relatively clinical, objective, analytical accounting world, with the passion, flair and style of the Italian language and Italy! Bella! So, after your studies, how did your career develop? The study never stops for an accountant, does it?

**J.T.:** I commenced work at Ernst & Young as a graduate in 2013 and then began a post-graduate diploma in chartered accounting which is completed over a few years with the assistance of a mentor. I became a qualified chartered accountant in 2016 and was promoted to senior accountant, and recently I became an assistant manager.

**N:** That is an impressive career path, Jonelle – a little more dynamic than *Norbertus'* CV! What are your day-to-day duties in your current position?



Jonelle pictured in the 2008 Koinonia.

**J.T.:** I work in financial statement auditing for listed companies, large private companies and not-for-profit organisations. In the role of assistant manager, I am responsible for leading the engagement fieldwork, managing the performance of teams and coaching junior staff. More recently I have become involved in graduate recruitment and working on proposals for new clients. My role is client-facing which involves providing advice on accounting, internal controls and other audit matters.

**N:** Now that you have established yourself in the accounting world, how do you still keep motivating yourself in such a challenging and competitive field?

**J.T.:** I always say yes to new opportunities and challenges, even if they seem daunting. My approach to my career and life is to proceed with integrity and courage, reach for the stars and aim to inspire those around me to be the best they can be.

**N:** You mentioned integrity and taking on challenges and aiming to inspire your colleagues; has there ever been an occasion when the Norbertine spirit or ethos, or the College motto of 'prepared for all good works' has come to mind since you left school?

**J.T.:** I think this motto can be applied to many facets of life. For me, working at a large financial services firm, there can be very stressful times due to client demands, high stakes and tight deadlines. During these times of adversity, being able to remain positive, keep providing high quality service to clients, and mentoring junior staff, for me is being 'prepared for all good works' and this has become a way of life.

**N:** It sounds to *Norbertus* that your position brings with it a fair deal of pressure. Apart from your travels and your love of all-things Italian, how else do you take a break from work?

**J.T.:** I love my career, but as I mentioned, I catch up with friends regularly in Perth, see my family, read, do yoga and enjoy listening to live music as often as possible.

**N:** Jonelle, it has been a great pleasure catching up with you. Congratulations on all your wonderful achievements and best wishes for the future.

**J.T.:** Thank you for the opportunity. I have enjoyed going back in my mind to my high school days and my life journey to date. Regards to everyone at St Norbert College.

**N:** Thanks again Jonelle....There's just one thing....Looking out of this Ernst & Young boardroom, 30 storeys up, over The City where finance rules supreme and accountancy firms are quite expensive.....I was just wondering....*Norbertus* won't be receiving an Ernst & Young invoice in the mail in the near future, will it?

**J.T.:** I can't promise anything but because it's for St Norbert's, I'll see if I can pull a few strings!

**N:** Thank you Jonelle. Best wishes.



*Jonelle and Jess Harrison (Class of 2009) trekking during a recent holiday in Vietnam. Jess is currently working as a counsellor, having recently completed an honours degree in psychology.*

*Image far left: Katelyn Isard, Jonelle, Rebecca Osborn and Courtney Gray at the Phar Lap exhibit in the Melbourne Museum during the 2008 history trip.*



# COMMANDER LEIGH JACKSON, CSM

**Earlier** this year St Norbert College received the excellent news that a former student had been recognised in the Governor-General's Australia Day 2018 Honours List. Commander Leigh Jackson (Class of 1982) was awarded a Conspicuous Service Medal for meritorious achievement in the field of Navy personnel management systems. Leigh was one of 20 serving and former Navy personnel to receive awards approved by The Governor-General, the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), who said the following as part of his presentation speech in Canberra on Australia Day:

*To all the recipients. I offer my deepest congratulations, admiration and respect for your contribution to our nation. We are fortunate as a community to have so many outstanding people willing to dedicate themselves to the betterment of our nation and it is only fitting that they have today been recognised through the Australian Honours system. On behalf of all Australians, I thank them for their contributions. We are a stronger, safer and more caring nation because of them.*

Norbertus and the entire St Norbert College community echo the sentiments of the Governor-General and congratulate Commander Jackson, who was kind enough to speak with us following the awards ceremony.

**Norbertus (N):** Congratulations on being recognised for your service to the Australian Navy over many years, particularly your contribution to personnel management systems, Leigh. You must be incredibly proud to receive the Conspicuous Service Medal.

**Commander Leigh Jackson (L.J.):** Thank you very much. I am very grateful for the award and feel proud to accept it on such an auspicious occasion in such distinguished company.

**N:** You commenced at St Norbert College as a member of St Luke's House in the late 1970s and left midway through Year 12 to join the Navy. What are some of your memories of your time at school?

**L.J.:** It is probably more in retrospect that I realised not maximising the opportunities that St Norbert's offered has been a constant motivator to do more and better with my life. The wide array of teachers was a strong memory. They were all so different with a broad mix of nationalities, quirks and teaching methods. Representing the school in athletics was a particular highlight as well as making lifelong friendships with some of my classmates.

**N:** Did you have a particular teacher, or a particular time period which helped you decide on your career path or aspects of your life in general?

**L.J.:** Mr Craig was a wonderful teacher who was also patient and encouraging with me. I think he recognised that I could be more than what I had achieved to that point. That stuck with me. I am not sure where he is, but I thank him for his support.

**N:** Any favourite teacher?

**L.J.:** Father William was a warm, funny and genuine person. He gave me confidence that I would do all right in life. I remember him saying that I would always fall on my feet irrespective of the direction that my life took.

**N:** Please give *Norbertus* readers a brief overview of your study/career path after leaving St Norbert College.

**L.J.:** I joined the Navy as a junior sailor in 1983 and was commissioned as an officer in 1988. I realised after officer training that a university education was a powerful asset and I pursued a Bachelor of Business in accounting at the University of Technology, Sydney. Gaining an undergraduate degree was a huge milestone in my life and it opened my



eyes to the importance and utility of higher education. I went on to gain a master's degree in business (MBA) from the University of South Australia and am currently enrolled in another degree at the University of Technology, Sydney. I have been a lifelong learner and amassed a number of qualifications that support my vocation or areas of interest.

**N:** You had a long and very successful naval career, reaching the distinguished rank of Commander in the Australian Navy. Could you please tell our readers a little bit about your career and where you have served?

**L.J.:** After gaining my commission in 1988 the career options opened up considerably. I moved many times during my career and have lived in Perth, Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Jervis Bay and served

at sea. My main role was in logistics which meant ensuring that our fleet had all that it required to undertake its mission. I undertook many roles in that capacity including an interesting period with the submarine logistics organisations.

Later in my career I had the opportunity to manage large-scale information technology projects which - as it happens - is my passion in life. Those roles have turned into a career.

We are in the information age and being in IT has given me a ringside seat to the power of technology.

I've chosen Sydney as my home and have lived here for more than 20 years. My family all still reside in Perth. I try and get back to Perth as often as I can. Every time I'm back in Perth I always seem to find myself driving past the school to see how it has grown and matured as an educational institution.

**N:** Just going back to your Conspicuous Service Medal for a moment, can you please give our *Norbertus* readers an insight into the achievements and circumstances this award recognised?

**L.J.:** When I left the Navy I ran - and still do - my own information technology company. The Navy asked me to put the uniform back on and look for opportunities where information technology could improve the organisation. The specific project that was recognised by the Governor-General involved leading a project that involved designing, developing and implementing a leadership and management information system for

14,000 Navy people across Australia and around the world. The project took three years, it involved countless design sessions, over 900 separate engagements and training sessions and a comprehensive cultural change management strategy. It stretched me physically, intellectually, technically and emotionally but was enormously rewarding. The system has been a tremendous success at all levels of the organisation.

**N:** That sounds like a very big achievement, Leigh. Congratulations again. How did you find the transition to working for yourself in private enterprise and were many of the skills you acquired in the Navy applicable in the world of business?

**L.J.:** There are few greater tests of what you're made of than building your own business from the ground up. There wasn't a day that I didn't rely on my Navy training, my educational background and my ability to cope with the inevitable challenges that will occur.

**N:** *Norbertus* usually asks our former students about whether the College motto of 'prepared for all good works' has ever come to mind since you left school, but reading the Governor-General's remarks, it appears as though all your hard work has truly made a significant contribution to our nation.

**L.J.:** In all things I do I try to be generous and giving. The term good works is sufficiently broad that it can apply to many things. Fortunately, the *Norbertines* have given us some breadth in what that can mean and I hope I have always had integrity and a solid moral framework.

**N:** *Norbertus* is confident that the success you have achieved in the Navy and in business could be a source of inspiration for some of our current students. What advice would you offer to any St Norbert College students reading this article?

**L.J.:** I have always wanted to answer this question and I hope my words might mean something to the students. Maximising the opportunities of being at the top of your game physically and intellectually, combined with boundless energy means high school could/should be the platform on which you build a magnificent life. The ability to learn and master almost anything, and quickly means your teenage years are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I recognise that as a teenager it's hard to see the big picture that's why it is important that you have access to people who can lift your expectations. As a teenager having lofty goals and a roadmap means that all things are possible. It just takes commitment and vision.

**N:** What would you list as the main principles by which you have approached your career and lived your life?

**L.J.:** I think the quality of the relationships you build on your life journey and the way you deal with challenges have a great impact on success. I am a firm believer in if you start something, you should stick with it until you have achieved some level of competence. I feel that some people miss out on fulfillment, enjoyment and a sense of satisfaction by giving in too soon. And, to be truly good at anything, first understand the science and the art will follow!



Leigh Jackson (left) pictured with some fellow Year 11 students at St Norbert College.

**N:** What are some of your interests outside your career?

**L.J.:** I have been happily married to my wife Eva for 21 years and we have a son Leigh. Away from work I enjoy road cycling, keeping fit, playing the piano and guitar, and good food.

**N:** Thank you very much for speaking with *Norbertus* today and once again congratulations on your respective naval and business careers, and of course your Conspicuous Service Medal. Best wishes for the future and if ever you are in Perth please visit the College and perhaps have a look at all the new facilities the current students are fortunate to enjoy.

**L.J.:** Thank you very much for having me; it has been my pleasure. I look forward to visiting the College in the not too distant future. Best wishes to all your readers.

# JERRY NOSKE

**Miss** Jerry Noske (Class of 2012) has always loved horses and was a successful eventing and showjumping rider while studying at St Norbert College. After graduating, Jerry decided to become a jockey just like her mother Jodie, father Jeff and brother Jarrod had chosen. Jerry is now one of Western Australia's most prominent female jockeys, having ridden over 250 winners during her short career to date, including victory in the 2015 Kalgoorlie Cup. *Norbertus* was lucky to catch up with Jerry after a successful day (for Jerry, not *Norbertus*!) at Ascot recently.

**Norbertus (N):** Welcome to *Norbertus*, Jerry, we appreciate your time.

**Jerry Noske (J.N.):** My pleasure, sorry it has taken so long to find time to have a chat.

**N:** You were in Prémontré House from 2008 to 2012 and had Ms Moore and Mrs Moura as Homeroom teachers. What were one or two of your happy, memorable, or significant experiences at St Norbert College?

**J.N.:** What a difficult question to start with! I had countless happy experiences at St Norbert College. Way too many friends and great classes over the years to pick some out. Thinking back though, the immersion experience I was part of in Beagle Bay really stands out for me; I think it certainly had a big impact on my development as a person.

**N:** Do you still keep in touch with any of your former classmates?

**J.N.:** I try! It dwindled down to two people very quickly. It was very hard balancing work and a social life for the first few years of my apprenticeship, the hours and workload was a lot to keep up with. I lost touch with just about everyone from school, lucky I had two super good friends, who made the best effort to still talk and catch up with me. We are still best friends today.

**N:** Well, *Norbertus* is quite sure that this article might rekindle some of your friendships. Who are the two people who have kept in close contact?

**J.N.:** Hannah Connolly and Rylee Giles and I are very close.

**N:** Do any teachers stand out in your memory? Any favourites?

**J.N.:** There's a few - Mr Pavy, Ms Marsh and Mrs Grosser. Oh, and of course I'd better mention Mr Mulligan!

**N:** *Norbertus* hears that while you were at school you were an enthusiastic horse showjumper and events rider. Is that right?

**J.N.:** Yes, that's correct. During school I was doing pony club and competitions on the weekends. Since I couldn't race until I finished school, it was the next best thing.

**N:** Your family is very prominent in Perth horse racing circles with your parents horse trainers and your brother Jarrod a jockey. Do you think your career choice as a jockey was inevitable, or did you consider other options? Was it a difficult decision?

**J.N.:** I did consider a few options throughout high school, and I was never pushed into racing. It was more the love for racing and growing up in the industry that held me pretty tight to choose that path. My parents were always supportive to choose a different path, but when it was looking like riding, they were definitely very supportive and helpful.

**N:** *Norbertus'* horse racing contacts said you came second in your first race and shortly after that you chalked up your first victory at Ascot. How did you feel as you commenced in this very competitive and challenging industry?

**J.N.:** I was extremely lucky to have the family support that I did, and still do. Having my dad as a trainer and my boss, he got one of his own horses ready for my first race ride, and had the horse pretty spot on to win. Thankfully it all went to plan in that race and we only just missed out. Even though I came second, having that horse ready and racing in town, allowed everyone to notice, and paved a solid path for me.

Jerry Noske celebrates with parents Jodie and Jeff after winning the 2015 Kalgoorlie Cup aboard Woodville. (Picture: Mary Meagher @WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS LIMITED)





**N:** They also tell me that you and your father combined to win the \$160,000 Kalgoorlie Cup in 2015. Congratulations! That must have been very special for your family.

**J.N.:** That was an extremely meaningful win. My dad hadn't been training all that long, and I hadn't been out of my apprenticeship long either. So, to win such a prominent and popular race was a dream come true for both of us. And, of course, sharing it together made it all that more special.

**N:** Could you please take our *Norbertus* readers through your typical racing week?

**J.N.:** Preparation consists of track work in the mornings from 4am to 8am Monday to Saturday, with trials every second Monday. Race days are usually every Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday and public holiday. Also, there are occasional race meetings on Fridays in summer. Depending on the number of rides I have and the travel time involved, race days can range from two to 15 hours long.

**N:** There's certainly more time and effort involved than meets the eye! What would you consider to be the challenging aspects of life as a jockey, and the enjoyable and rewarding aspects of being a jockey? Would you recommend it as a career for a young person who loves horses?

**J.N.:** Working as a jockey is very challenging; like any sport it is very tough physically and mentally. The highs are really high and the lows are extremely low, and there's no easy way to get around the emotional rollercoaster. The early starts and long hours, sometimes without being able to eat at all

can be pretty draining and strenuous on your body. But then the mental pressure can be a lot harder sometimes, having the world watching you and putting their hard-earned money on you can be quite hard.

As far as the rewarding aspects are concerned, the highs make it extremely satisfying - winning is the best feeling ever. The adrenaline and competitiveness we get from riding is just wicked. We wouldn't do it otherwise. Then there are the horses, my favourite. These animals are so rewarding and enjoyable to work with. I would recommend it to anyone with a passion for horses and racing; it's a balance between the competitiveness of the sport and the love for horses.

**N:** Your brother Jarrad left St Norbert College in 2007 to become a jockey. How much of a help has he been to your career? How competitive does it get between you?

**J.N.:** He has definitely been the most influential person in my riding career. Jarrad has helped me endlessly over the years and I don't think I would have done it without him. However, when we get extremely competitive with each other, I sometimes think he might regret all the assistance he has given me!

**N:** *Norbertus* heard on the grapevine that not only do all your family's given names start with the letter "J", but also all your pets as well. Is there some type of masterplan under way here?

**J.N.:** Jarrad and I are still undecided whether our parents were thinking of a cool family tradition, or they just couldn't think of many



Jeff and Jerry Noske.



Hannah Connolly and Jerry Noske after the graduation assembly in 2012.

names! And yes, every family pet over the years has had a name starting with J, although we are beginning to run out!

**N:** Has there ever been an occasion when the Norbertine spirit or ethos, or the College motto of 'prepared for all good works' has come to mind since you left school?

**J.N.:** Yes, definitely. Probably the most prominent times would have been during my apprenticeship, learning and striving to be the best I could be.

**N:** What advice would you give students at St Norbert College today?

**J.N.:** Have fun at school! Don't be in a hurry to leave, and make the most of it. It will be over before you know it.

**N:** Thank you very much for your time Jerry. It has been really good to catch up and get your insights into the world of horse racing. Best wishes to you, Jarrad and your family, and continued success on the track!

**J.N.:** Thank you, it's been a pleasure. Best wishes to everyone in the St Norbert College community, especially all your *Norbertus* readers.

## JERRY NOSKE'S IDEAL WEEKEND

1. Breakfast in bed or a trendy café? *Bed! I'm too sleep deprived to go out.*
2. West Coast Eagles or Fremantle Dockers? *Neither – go Bulldogs!*
3. A country race meeting or Ascot? *Ascot.*
4. High heels or flats? *Flats.*
5. A pub dinner or fancy restaurant? *Pub.*
6. A ride on Black Caviar or Winx? *Black Caviar.*
7. Trots or greyhounds? *Dogs!*
8. Pet cat or dog? *Dog.*
9. Holden or Ford? *Holden.*
10. Myer or David Jones? *Myer.*
11. Northbridge or Fremantle? *Fremantle.*
12. Read a magazine or go online? *Go online.*
13. Facebook or phone a friend? *Phone.*
14. Win lotto or the Melbourne Cup? *Lotto! Then I could buy some super-fast horses so Jarrad and I could both win a Melbourne Cup!*



## Finding a Purpose NICOLE LAMB

**Nicole** Lamb (nee Iovine) spent five years in Mr John Hulshoff's Magdeburg's Homeroom at St Norbert College before graduating as a member of the Class of 2001. After leaving St Norbert College, Nicole embarked on an amazing journey that has seen her travel the world as a professional dancer, yoga practitioner and teacher, and mentor. Nicole is currently the artistic director of OWLKEYME, a not-for-profit organisation she recently founded, whose intention is to empower individuals and communities to strengthen, develop and awaken their true purpose beyond illusion. Nicole recently dropped in to Treasure Road where *Norbertus* discovered a little about what this human dynamo has squeezed into the last 17 years or so.

***Norbertus* (N):** Welcome back to St Norbert College, Nicole.

**Nicole Lamb (N.L.):** Thank you very much, it's great to be back after such a long time.

**N:** What type of memories come back as you stroll around the grounds?

**N.L.:** Many happy memories, actually, particularly memories of some of the stand-out moments that took place in the Xanten Theatre, mainly involving dancing at the talent quests.

**N:** Of course, dance has only been on the curriculum for a decade or so, so you missed out on taking it as a subject back in the late 1990s.

**N.L.:** Yes, that's right. Dance was always in my blood, however, and I knew from as early as primary school that I was destined to travel the world, sharing my love and passion for creating and teaching dance, and entertaining people! The annual talent quests gave me a chance to dance and boy did I commit! It was my moment to unleash all the energy I built up during the year. Any chance to be centre of attention I suppose.

**N: *Norbertus*** hears that you played a significant role in establishing the St Norbert College cheer squad.

**N.L.:** Yes, you have done your research. That was me. Even though dressing up in blue and gold never really suited me, we thought it would be cool to create a cheerleading squad. We had fun meeting with the girls each week to create dances and movements to support our school at sports carnivals. The College was supportive and it was another creative outlet which both entertained and encouraged our athletes and swimmers.

**N:** Do any St Norbert College staff and classes stand out in your recollection of your time at the College?

**N.L.:** Art, drama and phys ed will always have a special place in my heart because they all contributed to my purpose in life. I had many teachers who nurtured elements of my personality including

Miss Tatum whose very firm insistence on students being early for class has rubbed off on me. It might seem like a small thing but it was only after a few years of leaving St Norbert's that I realised I am always a minimum of 15 minutes early for any class or meeting and that being on time is something I take pride in. To be punctual demonstrates respect.

**N: *Norbertus*** assumes you would have studied drama under the direction of Miss Hilton?

**N.L.:** Ah, Miss Hilton – the reason I didn't become a drama teacher! No – not really! I

just didn't want to do the paperwork. Miss Hilton played a huge role in my creative development as a young person. My wackiness was nurtured and I was awarded for my strengths and talents and my weaknesses were not highlighted as such. I felt comfortable to be myself, challenge myself and I was acknowledged for doing so. I truly believe Miss Hilton has helped shape the woman I have become today.

**N:** Your CV is one of the most amazing ever to come across *Norbertus'* desk. How have you managed to squeeze in such a comprehensive list of credits, experiences and performances, Nicole? Can you touch on some of your career highlights?



**N.L.:** I thrive on keeping busy and I like to say my career has involved the study of life. After school I jumped straight into teaching a variety of dance styles at a number of dance schools around Perth. In 2007 I was offered a prestigious role at the Singapore Chinese Girls' School to implement and teach a new dance curriculum in a number of schools. Upon my return to Perth I secured a position as Executive Artistic Director of Dance 2XS PERTH which is part of a worldwide dance company based in Chicago. This position created opportunities to meet and host other dancers under the Dance 2XS banner while they were touring with artists such as Justin Timberlake, Chris Brown, Rihanna, Missy Elliott, Brittany Spears, Beyonce, Usher and Michael Jackson.

**N:** There are some big names there. Even *Norbertus* has heard of a few of them! Have you done much television work in Australia?

**N.L.:** Yes, in 2009 I was a contestant on Australia's "So You Think You Can Dance" and placed in the top 12. I continued with the show in 2010 and 2011 as a choreographer but around this time my focus changed from teaching to performing and I landed a role with Tim Omaji (Timomatic – the multi-platinum, Award winning SONY artist) as one of his core dancers and assistant choreographer. I created routines for his appearances on "Australia's Got Talent" in 2011 and in 2012 created his first, headlining live show. This position created opportunities to dance as support acts for David Guetta and Nikki Minaj, and led to appearances on Sunrise, the Disney Channel and in the film clips "If Looks Could Kill" and "Parachute".

**N:** In 2012 you did a lot of travelling around Australia and in 2013-14 you toured with "X Factor" winner Samantha Jade. *Norbertus* understands that around this time you had an epiphany; you came up with an idea to create a youth organisation which would give young Australians a platform to express themselves artistically and creatively in a positive environment with no boundaries and expectations.

**N.L.:** That's right. Around 2013 I was thinking about how blessed I had been in my career and I had met so many wonderful kids around the country who I believed deserved the same opportunities as me. That led to the birth of OWLKEYME in July 2013.

**N:** Please tell the *Norbertus* readers a little bit about this organisation.

**N.L.:** The name OWLKEYME symbolises our belief that anyone can shape their own future. The *key* to making changes in your life is *me*; only you can create yourself. It is never too late to follow your dreams, just follow the magic inside you and, with the guidance of the owls (OWLKEYME mentors and staff), OWLKEYME will help to spark your light and create your own magic.

**N:** This sounds very inspiring, but how does it all work in a practical sense?

**N.L.:** We work with a broad range of people and groups from local communities, schools, community arts and cultural development organisations, individuals and anyone passionate about developing their creativity. We have delivered workshops and events including photography, dance, music production, web design, business skills and much more, in places ranging from small

regional and rural centres like Kalumburu to capital cities like Hobart. Each of the places we visit has its own vibe and we are continually surprised and inspired by the young people we meet. Currently in Perth we have a radio segment run and hosted by our Owls at Noongar Radio 100.9fm, weekly yoga workshops with the City of Belmont and numerous collaborations with other arts organisations. This year ahead is jam packed full of fun and creativity.

**N:** That's great Nicole. Interested *Norbertus* readers might take a look at your website to learn a little more about your organisation. It sounds as though you are living the College motto of being "prepared for all good works" by giving back so much to the community.

**N.L.:** Well it's funny you should mention that. As you have probably realised I am all about personal development, growth and nurturing one's spirit. I have studied a lot of yoga in India, including 500 hours of Ashanta yoga teacher training in Rishikesh, the holy land. While studying, the power of prayer and mantra really resonated within me. At school I wasn't really aware of the spirit that St Norbert College offered and gave its students. Thirteen years after graduating,

the motto popped into my head whilst in a deep meditation on the sandbanks of the holy Ganges River. It was a truly special moment.

**N:** Thank you very much for sharing your journey Nicole. Just finally, how would you sum up your approach to life in a few words, and what advice would you give the current students of St Norbert College?

**N.L.:** My approach to life is the same as OWLKEYME'S motto: fly free, be seen and create yourself. If I could say something to the current students I would suggest sitting, breathing and spending time with yourself. If you find that difficult, talk to your teachers, ask questions and fill your mind and spirit with knowledge! Take time to really delve into your soul and ask what your purpose is. Try different things in life and don't take it too seriously. Just be.

**N:** Thank you very much Nicole. Congratulations on all your achievements to date and best of luck for the future. Keep up the great work with OWLKEYME.

**N.L.:** Thank you very much. Best wishes to everyone at St Norbert's. Fly free!

Nicole pictured with Toni Cook at the 2001 St Norbert College Ball.



The cheer squad Nicole helped to establish at Perry Lakes Stadium in 2000. Nicole is in the front row, third from right.





## Part of a Special Community FRANK JOHNSON

**St** Norbert College alumnus Frank Johnson (Class of 2014) enrolled as a student at St Norbert College in 2010 and graduated in 2014. A member of Mr Ah Fong's Magdeburg Homeroom, Frank was a keen sportsman at St Norbert's and eventually selected basketball as his specialist sport. Frank was awarded Basketball Honours for his services to basketball at St Norbert College and credits the Specialised Basketball Program and the 2014 USA basketball tour as important influences on his growth and development as a basketballer. Frank is now playing and studying at Southeast Community College in the USA and recently *Norbertus* caught up with him to discuss his basketball journey to date.

**Norbertus (N):** Thank you for your time Frank and welcome to *Norbertus*.

**Frank Johnson (F.J.):** That's no trouble at all. Always good to hear from St Norbert College.

**N:** What were one or two of your happy, funny, memorable and/or significant experiences during your five years at St Norbert College?

**F.J.:** My most memorable experience at St Norbert College was graduation. Quite frankly I was not sure I was going to make it to graduation due to my behaviour in my early high school years. It was not until graduating from the College that I realised the opportunity I was given to get a great education and also be a part of a special community. The life lessons and friends I made whilst I was at the College helped me transition into the person I am today.

**N:** Do you still keep in touch with any of the friends you made at St Norbert College?

**F.J.:** There are a few friends I still keep in contact with today – Muse Woldemariam, Charles Kativa, Thamu Sibindi and Luke Petersen.

**N:** Do any teachers stand out in your memory? Why?

**F.J.:** I could honestly say every teacher that taught me at the College or that I had a connection with, whether that was related to basketball or on a personal level, created memories with me. Mrs Celeste Grosser was no doubt my favourite teacher; she always expected a very high standard from me and I believe she sincerely cared about her job as my basketball coach. She considered her students to be more than just basketball players and that is what I loved most about her.

**N:** Please give our *Norbertus* readers a brief background about your interest and achievement in basketball.

**F.J.:** So far since graduating I have been a part of the 2016 Western Australia men's basketball team representing our State in the National Championships which took place in Queensland. I have also recently started my freshman year at Southeast Community College in Nebraska, in the USA.

**N:** Did the Specialised Basketball Program at St Norbert College contribute much to Frank Johnson the basketballer today?



Frank Johnson, SCC basketballer.



**F.J.:** The Specialised Basketball Program at SNC gave me an opportunity to get a great education and be a part of something special. I was able to travel outside Australia for the very first time in 2014 to be a part of the USA tour team. That experience made me realise that in order for me to achieve my basketball aspirations I needed to work harder.

**N:** You were awarded a scholarship to Southeast Community College in Nebraska last year. Were there any specific reasons why you agreed to sign with this particular school?

**F.J.:** I accepted a scholarship to attend Southeast Community College because of a few key reasons including the fact that the coach was very interested in having me as part of his team, and also the small town I am living in has very few distractions outside playing basketball. This lack of distractions will keep me focused!

**N:** What course are you studying? Please give any aspiring American college students a brief overview of your typical week – your accommodation, studies, practice, games, travel and so on.

**F.J.:** Currently I am an academic transfer and plan to study health and physical education when I transfer to my four-year university course. I live on campus so getting to my classes is not much of an issue. The one thing that has been challenging to transition to is the amount of travelling that athletes are involved in. In the same week you may have several four-hour trips which, with homework and practice, can be quite difficult. However as long as you stay on top of your studies everything else becomes easier.

**N:** What are some of the things about college life in the USA that Australian students would find unusual, interesting or funny about living there?

**F.J.:** So far college life has been quite the experience for me. Given that I am on a scholarship my day to day schedule pretty much consists of going to classes, practice

and basketball games. I do not have to worry about paying bills and paying for my schooling which has been great. In relation to my basketball performance, recently I tore my anterior cruciate ligament and had surgery in January last year. The recovery from this injury required a lot of rehab and preparation for my return but it's all good now.

**N:** What are some of the drawbacks about living so far from home?

**F.J.:** Apart from the absence of family members and close friends, I have no regrets about living so far away from home.

**N:** How have you been accepted by your fellow students? Have there been any language/accents difficulties?

**F.J.:** I have been very fortunate to have great teammates that love Australians which has made things a lot easier.

**N:** How do you see the next five or 10 years panning out for you?

**F.J.:** In the next five to 10 years I plan to have graduated from university with a degree in teaching and to also play in the NBL.

**N:** What advice would you give to the students at St Norbert College today?

**F.J.:** The most important advice I can give to all the students at St Norbert College is to take advantage of what you have at the College. We are very lucky to be a part of a community like St Norbert College. Treat your teachers with respect because they really do care about you, and remember to always work hard in everything you do in life because you never know where it can take you.

**N:** In a few words, how would you sum up your approach to your career or your approach to life in general?



*Frank appeared in some promotional shots for the St Norbert Canons.*

**F.J.:** I have been very determined to prove to myself that if you want something in life you need to go after it. I have worked hard to be where I am today and do not plan to stop until I acquire what I want in life.

**N:** Good luck Frank. You sound very determined and *Norbertus* is sure it won't be long until you are wearing a Perth Wildcats singlet on court at the Perth Arena. Thank you very much for sparing some time out of your busy schedule to give *Norbertus* readers a taste of your life in the USA and we look forward to catching up with you when you drop into St Norbert's during your "summer" holiday trip back to Perth in the middle of the year.

**F.J.:** My pleasure, thank you very much. St Norbert College holds a special place in my heart and I look forward to catching up with everyone there very soon.



# Worth the Sacrifice LUKE PETERSEN

**Luke** Petersen (Class of 2015) attended St Norbert College for three years from 2013 to 2015 and was a member of Miss Josie Robinson's Prémontré Homeroom. Luke was a prominent member of the Specialised Basketball Program, was a member of the 2014 USA touring party and was recognised for his services to basketball at St Norbert College by being awarded Basketball Honours in his final year at school. Luke's potential was spotted by a basketball talent agency and he soon found himself signing an academic and sporting scholarship contract at the University of Maine Presque Isle (UMPI).

**Norbertus (N):** You've just returned from a fairly grueling road trip Luke, so we appreciate you giving up some of your valuable downtime to speak to *Norbertus*.

**Luke Petersen (L.P.):** Not a problem, thanks for the opportunity to catch up.

**N:** What were one or two of your more significant memories of the time you spent at St Norbert College?

**L.P.:** There are many memories that I have of my time at St Norbert's, but some of the happiest are just time spent throughout the day with my friends messing around and relaxing. My senior year would be the most memorable because you were doing everything for the last time so you took the time to actually appreciate everything that was going on throughout the year.

**N:** Do you still keep in touch with any of your former classmates?

**L.P.:** As the years have progressed, I have realised that people have slowly drifted apart, however there are a few people that

I still am friends with and see on a regular basis. Of course I keep in touch with Frank Johnson and I'm glad to get a run with him in this edition of *Norbertus*.

**N:** Please give our *Norbertus* readers a brief insight into your basketball career in Perth.

**L.P.:** I started playing basketball when I was about nine or 10 years of age at the Lakeside Baptist competition where I played all the way through to Under 18s. I started playing in the WABL and then progressed to D League where I play for the Kalamunda Eastern Suns at the moment. Throughout my basketball life, I have been lucky enough to travel the world playing basketball including places such as China, Melbourne and twice in America.

**N:** Did the Specialised Basketball Program at St Norbert College have much of an impact on your overall game?

**L.P.:** Coming to St Norbert College, it was the first time I was exposed to such a comprehensive competitive basketball program. In my opinion the extra one or two scheduled practices a week helped tremendously by touching up on the weaker parts of my game. The knowledge and experience that Mrs Grosser, Mr Ford, and Mr McIntyre imparted to me helped enormously with the mental side of my game.

**N:** How did you come to the attention of UMPI and what made you decide on pursuing your studies and basketball there?

**L.P.:** I was noticed by UMPI through a recruitment agency. Dan Kane, the head coach showed strong interest in me and thought that my style of game was something that would



Luke Petersen in his UMPI Owls strip.



fit perfectly into the type of team he was building. Coach Kane was very persistent with his recruiting and was quick to answer any questions I may have had.

**N:** What course are you studying? Please give the *Norbertus* readers a brief overview of your typical week.

**L.P.:** I'm majoring in physical education and fitness and wellness. Living on campus is very different than you would think, and with everything being walking distance, there is no excuse in missing or being late for class or meetings. Classes can start as early as 6am and finish at 9.30pm. A typical day during the week could be having a 6am practice which always runs for a minimum of two hours. You have to go straight to class from practice and you are then expected to find time amongst your classes to come back and put either more time in on the court during the day or go to the weights room. Game days aren't always easy with road games being as long as a 13-hour bus ride away, which will be usually split up into a few days. If the game is on Saturday, we'll usually depart from campus Friday morning and not reach our destination until that night. Upon arrival, you have around an hour to relax in the hotel before you go to practice. Next day we will have some court time at 10am for an hour or so in preparation for the game that day. After we play we will head back to campus, sometimes not arriving until after midnight. You are still expected to go to class that same day, even if you have an 8am lecture.

**N:** What is the city of Presque Isle like? What are some of the benefits of living and studying overseas?

**L.P.:** Presque Isle is a small town, which in my opinion is good because it allows you to concentrate on your basketball and academics with minimal distractions.

**N:** What are some of the things about college life in the USA that Australian students would find unusual or interesting about living there?

**L.P.:** The food here is very different compared to Australia with there being items you never would have thought existed.

**N:** What are some of the drawbacks about living so far from home?

**L.P.:** A big drawback is because I am going to be away from home for nine months, a lot of friendships can get distant and at times you wish you are able to go home especially when you see your American friends going home to see their families on holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and birthdays.

**N:** How have you been accepted by your fellow students? Have there been any language or accent issues?

**L.P.:** When I first arrived in Presque Isle it was like I was a major circus attraction. Everyone is so fascinated about you being foreign and at times will make fun of the way you speak or how you pronounce certain words. However, it was very easy to make friends here but sometimes it is hard to comprehend what my friends say.

**N:** What advice would you give to the students at St Norbert College today?

**L.P.:** If anyone is looking at making this same transition, a big thing to know is that it is possible, but isn't easy. It takes a lot of hard work and sacrifice to get out here and it only gets harder once you are here. Academics is the main priority and if you aren't going to class or are failing you don't play, there are no second chances. You have to be prepared for erratic schedules, training everyday sometimes even twice a day, short turnarounds and late nights doing homework. Overall, though, it is a great experience and is worth all the sacrifices taken to get here.

**N:** Well you've only got five minutes to get to practice and *Norbertus* would not like to upset Coach Kane by holding you up, so thank you very much Luke and best of luck for the future. Maybe one day you and Frank might be teammates on a Wildcats roster.

**L.P.:** That'd be great! My pleasure to answer your questions and if anyone from the St Norbert College community is ever in Presque Isle, please come down and support the UMPI Owls!



Luke Petersen and Frank Johnson (third and fourth from left) during the 2014 USA basketball tour.

# —CLASS OF— 1977 Reunion

**The** Class of 1977, the last all-male class at St Norbert College, has always endeavoured to catch up on a regular basis and luckily a fair few of the group were able to make it to our most recent reunion at the Broken Hill Hotel last December. Fortunately all the guys are in good health and it was good to come together to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our graduation from St Norbert College.

We were about the sixth class to go through the College and a few who were present on the night had just started primary school when the College commenced. That sense of camaraderie from all those years ago was still tangible and all those funny incidents that happened at school still gave us a great laugh on the night!

It was a great pleasure to catch up with everyone and we look forward to another reunion in late 2018.

God bless,

Mr Paul Kelly (Class of 1977).



*Peter Cox, Mick Devine, John Hulshoff, Paul Kelly, Clint Wallace and David Bianchini.*



*1977 YEAR 12*

*Standing: L. Pen, E. Baars, C. Wallace, C. Johnson, P. Cox, D. Bianchini, M. Brokenshire, P. Celotti, B. Monneron, R. Hoes. Sitting: J. Pontre, P. Kelly, L. Klepps, B. Malacari, J. Pollaers, G. Paynter, S. Walsh. Absent: T. Francas. Attended the Class of 1977 Reunion.*



CLASS OF  
**1977**  
Reunion



Bernard Monneron wets his whistle after joining the group. Bernard was an outstanding sportsman during his time at SNC, one his many achievements including being the only ever student to coach the College swimming team.

A copy of the 1977 Koinonia provided a few laughs.



Bernard Monneron, Clint Wallace and John Pontre as members of the 1977 Saturday morning soccer team.



Clint Wallace, John Pontre and Peter Cox.



Senior Master of Mathematics Mick Devine and mathematics teacher John Hulshoff reminisce about some of the Class of 1977's antics.



Bernard Monneron, Peter Cox and Mick Devine catch up on the St Norbert College news from an edition of Norbertus.





Members of the Class of 1986 gathered for a reunion at the Varsity Bar in Waterford recently and were joined by former St Norbert College teacher and Principal Desirée Grzenda-Day (second from left).



Mark Brown and Vanessa. Mark is a winemaker at Sandalford Wines.

Anne-Marie Sweett (nee Nakhoul) and Paul Sceresini. Anne-Marie is a pharmacist at St John of God Hospital in Murdoch and Paul is an engineer at G.R. Engineering Services in Belmont.

Vanessa Williams (nee Archdeacon) and Desirée Grzenda-Day. Vanessa is a payroll manager at Hanssen Pty Ltd and Desirée taught many students of the Class of 1986, and is a former Principal of St Norbert College.



Russell Bailey and Wendy-Anne Smith. Russell is an accountant and Wendy-Anne is a business manager in a surgical practice.

Alastair Nicholson and Glen Beresford. Alastair is a project manager for Telstra Health and Glen is a site manager at Puma service station.

# —CLASS OF— 1986 Reunion

A bunch of us from the graduating Class of 1986 caught up recently at the Varsity Bar and Grill in Waterford. It was a great night, reasonably well attended with about 10 students coming along. The highlight of the night was an unexpected visit from Miss Grzenda (now Mrs Desirée Grzenda-Day). We got told off for calling her that, but she'll always be Miss Grzenda to us. It was fantastic to have a couple of new faces there too, with Wendy-Anne Smith and Anne-Marie Nakhoul joining us.

We have a Facebook page: "St. Norbert's College (unofficial) 1986 graduating year" and all our functions are co-ordinated through that. We currently have around 53 members (about a third of our year). We would love to see more people from our year join the page and come along to our gatherings - they are always heaps of fun. We would also like to see more of our teachers join the page and attend the catch-ups too; after all, they were also an important part of our school years.

Glen Beresford and Vanessa Williams

# —CLASS OF— 2008 *Reunion*

On Saturday, April 14, some members of the Class of 2008 gathered at the Merrywell to catch up over drinks. Many had not seen each other for 10 years and the stories, memories and laughter flowed well into the night!



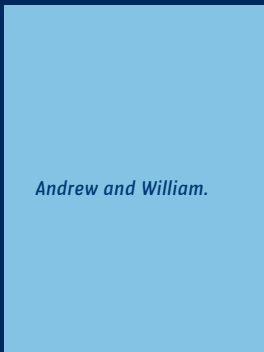
Members of the Class of 2008: Mitchell Bertolini, Cassandra Hart, William Lewis and Adam Gregory. William is an occupational therapist and Adam works for the City of South Perth in events management.



Katelyn Isard, Nicole Ottes and Cassandra Hart. Katelyn is teaching at St Norbert College and Nicole is a veterinary nurse.



Amy-Louise Hapgood and Georgina McKay. Amy is a strength and conditioning coach.



Andrew and William.



Andrew Owen, Benjamin Appleby and Eddie Lam. Andrew has a degree in communications but is currently working as a painter, Benjamin is a customer service officer in the Western Australia Police Force and Eddie works in IT development for Bankwest.





# Out & About Alumni



Towards the end of Term 1, Mix 94.5's Pete Curulli (Class of 2002) dropped in to Miss Macoboy's Magdeburg Homeroom to interview Year 10 student Charles Pleiter (fourth from left), who is fast gaining a reputation as one of Perth's best footy tipsters.



Tyson Kelly (Class of 2005) married Ellice Van Toorn last year and they have two sons, Austin (two) and Harvey (ten weeks). Tyson is an electrician and Ellice works in administration at her family's bakery.

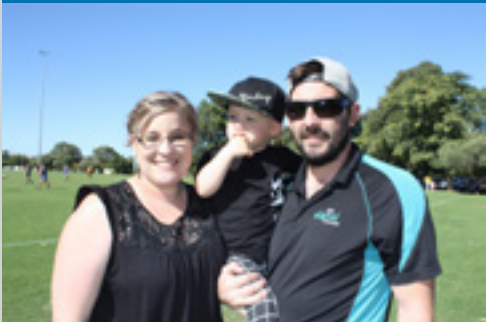
There was a real St Norbert College vibe on the Applecross coffee strip one morning in February. Former Principal Desirée Grzenda-Day bumped into Will Janissen, Mark Kelly and Neville Mills who were rewarding themselves with a coffee after a lengthy bike ride. The men get together about once a week and ride for fitness and camaraderie. Will (Class of 1979) attended St Norbert College, as did his daughter Fraya (Class of 2008) and son Kelvin (Class of 2010). Will is the proprietor of an electrical contracting business and is often seen plying his trade on the St Norbert College campus. Mark (Class of 1978) runs his own training business and had five children follow in his footsteps at the College: Lorissa (Class of 2002), Tanya (Class of 2003), Matthew (Class of 2007), Benjamin (Class of 2011) and Maddison (Class of 2016). While Neville did not attend St Norbert College, he was a stalwart of the SNESA Amateur Football Club for many years in the late 1980s and early 1990s, mainly at centre-half-back.



Melissa (nee Beerkens, Class of 2005) and Jamie Elkins (Class of 2005) were married in 2014 and are pictured with their son Sterling Jack Elkins who was born on February 10, 2016. Mel is a Year 4 primary School teacher at Campbell Primary school and Jamie works in telecommunications. The family were enjoying the May sunshine at a SNESA match with friends Tyson and Ellice Kelly and family.



Members of the Class of 2017, Belinda Donovan and Livinia Cupitt-Neville called into the College in Term 1 to visit Ms Margaret Kyd and Miss Michelle Ronchi.



Audrew Kashaba, Lauren Moro, Ella Sweetapple and Lucas Kininmonth (all Class of 2017) visited the College in Term 1. Audrew is studying Certificate IV business studies, Lauren has commenced a primary school education degree at the University of Notre Dame, Ella is studying public relations at Murdoch University, and Lucas is enrolled in a Diploma of Leadership at Youth Alive Academy.





# Family Ties

## MRS PATTY D'AURIA-POVIA AND BENJI BERARDIS

**When** Mrs Patty D'Auria-Povia (Class of 1994, nee D'Auria) was a student in Mr Croghan's Magdeburg Homeroom in the early 1990s, the St Norbert College campus was very different to the one her son Benji Berardis was greeted with when he commenced this year as a Year 7 student in Mr Corey Houwen's Magdeburg's Homeroom. In addition to the physical transformation of the College grounds with all the new buildings and facilities, plus technological advancements and the arrival of new subjects, St Norbert College - like all schools - has changed profoundly over the past 25 years or so.

Patty has pointed out to Benji that back in her day there was no ORC, no basketball program, no dance studio and that Café 135@ Treasure was not as salubrious as it is today, and she wonders what he would have made of her classroom environment: no iPads, old computers, discs to save work, overhead projectors, hard copies of everything and stricter discipline.

Despite the simpler times, Patty enjoyed her time at St Norbert College and is hopeful her son Benji will enjoy a similar experience during the next six years.

"I must say there is a little bit of apprehension to having Benji at the same school as I attended, but it is early days and I will wait and see how he settles in. Some of my best memories are from my school days, and now it feels as if things have come full circle with Benji here; hopefully he can have the same fun memories I had," Patty said.

Although a few years have passed, Patty says

she is grateful that she and Benji can have some shared experiences and have a chat and giggle about their time at St Norbert's. "It has been fun to talk about our experiences and we both laugh at what I used to get up to!" Patty laughed.

Patty says the close friendships she established and the caring attitude of some of the teachers she encountered were at the centre of her positive experience at St Norbert's.

"The best thing about school was meeting all my friends, many of whom I still see today," Patty said. "Kathrin Agostino (nee Barbaro) was my best friend and we did everything together. Just having lunch together was always a pleasure and the vertical Homeroom system meant we mixed with students of all ages."

Patty also paid tribute to the staff of St Norbert College when she was a student and fondly recalls the impact people like Desirée Grzenda, Kerri Hilton, Lynn Moxham, Brian Rogan, Dario Bottega, Kathy Jones, Anthony Byrne and Principals Tom Corcoran and Carole Hayes had on her.

"There were many incredible teachers throughout my school journey who motivated me and inspired me to be more confident in my abilities," Patty said. "I was often able to go to them for advice and direction." The Norbertine influence of Fr Peter and Br Pat on campus was also a positive impact, as was her friendship with Mrs Pollaers, the canteen manager. "She always made me feel welcome and even sneaked me some snacks," Patty recalled fondly.

Some memorable events at the College that stand out in Patty's memory include a staff slave auction which was tremendous fun and supported by the whole school and getting involved in the Student Representative Council and contributing to occasions like Open Day.

Benji says he has settled in to St Norbert's well and - because of his mum's association with the school - has an appreciation of the fact that he enjoys a wider range of first-class educational facilities today.

"There is more advanced equipment, better buildings like the ORC, better sports fields and better computers," Benji said. An avid soccer (AC Milan) and AFL (West Coast Eagles) fan, Benji can't get enough sport and would gladly substitute some physical activity for the time he spends doing homework. "I'm not a fan of homework and I don't like carrying my heavy bag," he pointed out, "but otherwise St Norbert's is great. I have a great bunch of friends, and I like all the subjects and teachers and Homeroom is good because you get to mix with the different age groups."

In her final year of school Patty says she was counselled to change from her ATAR course and plans to study law, to a new course that saw her end up studying business and running a successful recruitment firm for 18 years. It is early days as far as Benji's career choice is concerned, but Patty will obviously look on in interest as he grows up and decides what avenue in life to pursue.

*Norbertus* is glad Patty has passed the SNC baton on to Benji and hopes this close-knit family remains a fixture at Treasure Road for many years to come.



*Patty as a student at St Norbert College.*



*Patty with husband Dario and sons Benji and Dante.*

# Family Ties

## MR PETER PARK AND GRACE PARK

**Mr** Peter Park (Class of 1983) was a member of St Lawrence House and this year his daughter Grace commenced as a Year 7 student in Mrs Suzanne Marin's Prémontré Homeroom. Grace is the third child of Peter and his wife Joscelin to attend St Norbert's – brother Benjamin is currently in Year 9 and older brother Joshua graduated in 2016.

Grace has settled in well at St Norbert College and is very impressed with the current Treasure Road campus which her dad would probably struggle to recognise from his schooldays. "St Norbert College is really big," Grace said, "and all the buildings and facilities are new and look very attractive." In addition to the facilities, Grace is very happy with her classes and teachers, and has made plenty of new friends in Year 7 and P4 Homeroom.

Peter commenced at St Norbert College in 1979 and left in the early 1980s to take up a position at Charlie Carters before eventually settling on a career in carpet installation. While the physical environment of the College was not as comfortable as it is today, Peter enjoyed his time at school and ranks the lifelong friendships he made as the best part of his St Norbert College experience. "I didn't enjoy standing in assemblies in 38 degrees heat, but it was all good," Peter recalled. "The best thing about the College was the friends I made and still see today."

Peter is glad Grace decided to come to his old school and appreciates his daughter will enjoy quite a different experience to his own. "The place has improved a lot for the better since I was there and I'm sure Grace will have a wonderful involvement at the College and get a good education," Peter said. "And it's been fun and interesting discussing our respective experiences at St Norbert College, as it's brought back a lot of memories."

Peter and Joscelin now run their own successful flooring business called Park FlooringXtra in Cannington, which is obviously very time consuming and requires a lot of effort. Peter believes his days at St Norbert College all those years ago have had a positive impact on how he goes about his work. "My approach to life hinges on putting in my best effort at all times," he said. "I would encourage Grace and all the students at St Norbert College to do the same, because the more time and effort you put into something, the more you will get out of it." Peter would like to see his daughter work hard at school and embrace as many opportunities, clubs and activities as possible because the benefits are numerous. "Work smart at school and the benefits will last a lifetime," Peter said.

*Norbertus* concurs with that advice and wishes the Park family well as they watch Grace embark on her journey through secondary school at St Norbert College.



Year 7 student Grace Park pictured with her parents Peter (Class of 1983) and Joscelin, and brothers Joshua (Class of 2016) and Benjamin.



# MR ROBERT Henderson

**Mr** Robert Henderson has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in Catholic education across Western Australia, ranging from St Luke's College in Karratha to Kolbe College in Rockingham, and several schools in between, including St Norbert College where he was Deputy Principal from 1996 to 2003. Robert has held a variety of Head of Department positions, Deputy Principal positions, and has been Acting Principal of Trinity College, Principal of CBC Fremantle and is currently in his third year as Principal of John XXIII College, Mount Claremont, having returned from Queensland where he was Headmaster of Ipswich Grammar School for five years. One of St Norbert College's favourite sons, Robert recently made some time in his busy schedule to speak to *Norbertus*.



Mr Robert Henderson was Deputy Principal at St Norbert College from 1996 to 2003.

**Norbertus (N):** Thank you for your time, Robert. Welcome to *Norbertus*.

**Robert Henderson (R.H.):** My pleasure, thanks for having me. Always good to be involved with St Norbert College.

**N:** Congratulations on your magnificent career in Catholic - and independent - education in Western Australia in particular, and Queensland. You must have amassed a wide range of educational experiences and contexts to draw upon as your career has progressed.

**R.H.:** Thanks, yes, I consider myself to have been very fortunate to have worked in a wide variety of schools - with some amazing people - across WA and in Queensland, and of course St Norbert's has been one of my most memorable positions.

**N:** Can we go back to when you were growing up?

**R.H.:** I was raised in a family with two brothers and one sister in the Como-Salter Point district. Sport was pretty big in our family and that was encouraged at Aquinas College where I went to school.

**N:** Is there any truth to the rumour that your dad had an old adage: "Play footy in winter, cricket in summer and go to church on Sundays"?

**R.H.:** I am not sure who your source is, but that's pretty accurate. We all developed a love of footy and cricket (and church!), and lately with my daughters I have developed an interest in netball.

**N:** *Norbertus* hears you played A Grade cricket and were also a pretty handy footballer, at one stage playing amateur football for John XXIII.

**R.H.:** Well yes, it's funny that my current association with John XXIII is a little more formal nowadays!

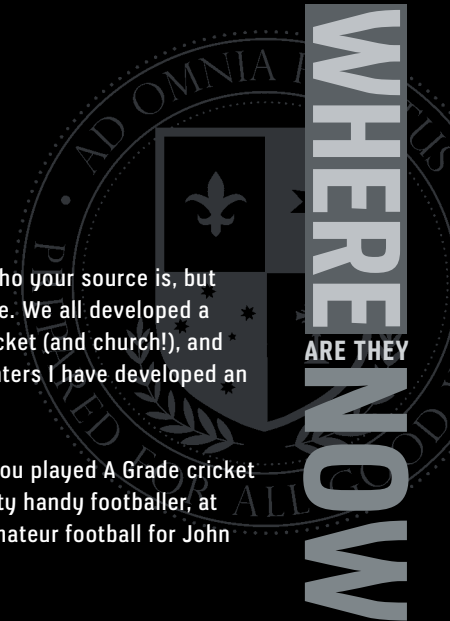
**N:** What tertiary course did you pursue after Aquinas?

**R.H.:** I completed a commerce degree at the University of Western Australia, followed by a Master's in Education at Murdoch University and a Master's in Religious Education at the University of Notre Dame.

**N:** What drew you to a career in education?

**R.H.:** I came from a family of teachers, with both parents working in education. I enjoyed coaching sport and it was a natural extension to teach once I completed my undergraduate degree.

**N:** You were a Deputy Principal at St Norbert's for eight years from 1996. What would be your enduring memory of the students you encountered there?





**R.H.:** There were great young people at St Norbert College. I always found students were always very grateful when staff became advocates for them. There was always a great sense of community among the students and I particularly enjoyed spending time away on retreats and camps. I can still recall some great skits when students mimicked teachers in very amusing but tasteful style.

**N:** Are there any staff members or memorable moments which come to mind when you think of St Norbert College?

**R.H.:** There are many, of course. I recall when Simon Harvey was Head of Prémontré and he was consoling his students on just missing out on a top four finish after a House swimming carnival (bearing in mind there are only five Houses) and a certain Mr Mulligan advising him that a truckload of wooden spoons had just arrived and the driver was looking for him to sign the delivery docket.

Being an ugly stepsister in the staff pantomime of *Cinderella* was lots of fun and hiring a pair of high heels with Kerri Hilton and Br David was a very amusing occasion. A six-foot-two man in a suit trying to explain why he needed high heels was an interesting experience to say the least!

**N:** Do you think your time at St Norbert College has had a lasting impact on you?

**R.H.:** I believe it has. I loved the sense of camaraderie among the staff and the level of dedication to their work was of the highest order. I have been fortunate to remain in contact with many former colleagues since my St Norbert days.

I recall Simon Harvey as a superb young teacher and am thrilled that he is now Principal. Attending his induction was a great honour and it really brought home to me that St Norbert College has a very special Catholic identity.

**N:** You mentioned your daughters earlier. Can you tell *Norbertus* about your family?

**R.H.:** I have been happily married to Robyn for 25 years and we have three daughters: Mia (20), Zoe (18) and Abbey (16) and - as I alluded to before - I have become quite the netball aficionado over the years!

**N:** Thank you very much for your time Robert, and congratulations on your wonderful career to date, in particular the role you played in the St Norbert College story. We look forward to seeing you at the St Norbert Day celebrations in a few weeks.

**R.H.:** It has been my pleasure. Best wishes to your readers and everyone associated with St Norbert College and I look forward to seeing everyone in June.



Robert hams it up with fellow stepsister Mr Bronson Gherardi in the 2002 St Norbert College production of *Cinderella*.



# MRS HEIDI *Hutton*

**Mrs** Heidi Hutton completed her final teaching practicum at St Norbert College in 2000 and became a full-time staff member the following year. Heidi taught health and physical education, outdoor education and humanities from 2001 to 2004 and was renowned for the extremely cheerful, positive and enthusiastic manner in which she taught her students and embraced the teaching profession. Always keen for new adventures, Heidi and her husband Dr Pete Hutton have been eager to combine their careers with new horizons, studies and opportunities. Norbertus recently caught up with Heidi, and was not surprised to learn that she and Pete have been keeping very busy.



Dr Pete and Mrs Heidi Hutton overlooking Old Corinth on mainland Greece, during their nine-week odyssey from Rome to Athens.

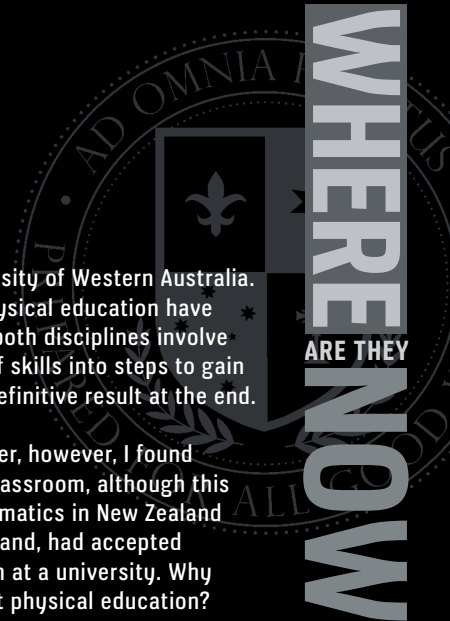
I encountered my first experience of St Norbert College as a student teacher in the year 2000. I knew immediately that this was the school I wanted to teach at. It was the right size where you felt you got to know all of the students, regardless of whether you taught them or not, the staff were amazing, and the sense of community and belonging was tangible. When I found out I was accepted for my first teaching position in 2001 as a physical education, health and outdoor education teacher, I was extremely excited. In addition to my core teaching areas I also taught Year 8 STAR (students at academic risk) society and environment classes. St Norbert's became my home in many ways, so it was with a lot of sadness I left full-time teaching at Treasure Road to pursue a Master's degree.

My Master's studies involved evaluating a physical education program being trialed for use in primary schools. During this time, I continued to relief teach as much as I could. Completing my Master's expanded my horizons in ways I didn't first perceive. Until my Master's I had practical expertise but now I also had some research expertise. This allowed a subtle shift in career direction for me and I accepted a position with the Telethon Kids Institute as a research coordinator for some school-based research projects. What a steep learning curve! I combined this with teaching a foundation mathematics unit as part of a bridging program with the School of Indigenous

Studies at the University of Western Australia. Mathematics and physical education have a lot of similarities; both disciplines involve the breaking down of skills into steps to gain proficiency, with a definitive result at the end.

A couple of years later, however, I found myself back in the classroom, although this time teaching mathematics in New Zealand where Pete, my husband, had accepted an academic position at a university. Why mathematics and not physical education? Have you ever tried teaching phys ed in gumboots in wet, freezing, windy conditions? It may be fine if you are from NZ but I was now a soft West Aussie who did not handle the cold or the mud. What better subject than maths to teach when you can do it all in the comfort of a heated classroom!

The boys I taught were amazing young men representing a real melting pot of cultures. Apart from learning a lot about maths and NZ, I also learnt how to sing the NZ national anthem in Maori! One of the great things about teaching is what happens outside of the classroom. Kiwis embrace their environment. There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad preparation (something that had also been drilled into me by various people over the years when on outdoor education camps). So, you can imagine my wide-eyed wonder as I spent time hiking (tramping in NZ) in Tolkein's own Lord of the Rings country, enjoying the soothing jets of flowing water in a creek in the middle of winter (a volcanically-heated creek that is) and surfing off a black volcanic sand beach





*Heidi with some students during her time teaching at St Norbert College.*



*Zeus' Temple gets the artistic treatment from Heidi and Pete.*

with a snow-capped mountain as the backdrop. All these experiences were made more special by the company of cheeky, good-natured students and staff with whom I was able to share these times. In 2011 we returned to Australia with a two-year stint back in our home town in country NSW. It was a great opportunity to reconnect with family and childhood friends. But Perth became too much of a lure for us and we returned mid-2013. I slotted straight back into my previous positions at UWA and the Telethon Kids Institute and Pete returned to UWA where he managed a large study in sheep. He was investigating different feed types in an attempt to reduce methane emissions in sheep. In effect, he was trying to change the gas content in a sheep's burp!

Pete's research project ended mid-2016 and yes....he did find some feed sources that reduced methane! As Pete was between projects we took the opportunity to spend nine weeks in Europe. We had always wanted to go on a holiday "powered under our own steam"... hiking, biking and sea kayaking. Our trip started in Rome and after a few days' sight seeing we made our way to the French island of Corsica. For three weeks we hiked the GR-20, a long distance walking trail that took us from north to south of the island through amazing mountains. On returning to Rome we collected our bikes and rode to Athens. Along the way we stopped in at the Greek Ionian Islands for eight days of sea kayaking.

Once back in Australia Pete took some time off before returning to work as a research scientist with Western Dairy. As all the dairying in WA is in the south-west we have made the sea-change and moved to Bunbury. Pete was once a dairy farmer so he is really enjoying being back in the industry (but without having to get up at 4am to milk the cows!) I commuted back to Perth for the first eight months of this new lifestyle but have recently made the permanent move. As part of this I am getting my teaching registration reinstated and have just finished some orientation at Bunbury Catholic College. It reminded me so much of St Norbert College with friendly, welcoming kids and staff and a real sense of community. The size of the College is even similar. I will hope to do some casual teaching here in the near future and to become more involved in College life.

We feel like we have come full circle in some way and we are very grateful to still be considered part of the St Norbert College community.





# Alumni Scene AT "OLIVER!"



*Blake Jenkins performs as Fagin with fellow cast members in "Oliver!"*

The grime and crime of mid-19th century industrial London came to life in the Xanten Theatre in the St Norbert College production of "Oliver!" the musical which had four sell-out performances from May 9 to 14. The show was an outstanding success due to the dedication and hard work of Miss Hilton, Mr Beins, Miss Alban, Mrs Freind, Mrs Palermo, Mr Lawson and a talented cast and crew of students and volunteers. *Norbertus* caught up with some former St Norbert College students in the audience to see what they were up to, and to hear what they thought of "Oliver!"



*Jane Marie Hands and Shani Rakic (both Class of 2011) have remained close friends since leaving St Norbert College and loved the St Norbert College production of "Oliver!". Shani is working in child care and Jane Marie is currently working as a seamstress at a dance academy in Burswood after gaining an Advanced Diploma in Fashion Design and Technology. Jane Marie has worked behind the scenes in two musicals at her dance academy and also worked in the costume department of the international stage dance show Burn The Floor during its recent Perth season, so she appreciates the work that goes in to a production like "Oliver!". The ladies submitted the following review: "Oliver! is an all-time favourite of ours and we were absolutely amazed at how everything from the props to the costumes were put together so professionally. All the long hours and stress were worth it because the cast, crew, extras and volunteers were absolutely amazing and all their hard work paid off on the night. So much talent on one stage. Congratulations to all involved – such an outstanding show!"*



*Simon (Class of 1988) and Maria Harvey thoroughly enjoyed the St Norbert College performance of "Oliver!" with Simon in particular being very proud and very appreciative of the efforts of so many members of the St Norbert College community: "Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Miss Hilton, Mr Beins, Miss Alban, Mrs Freind, Mrs Palermo and Mr Lawson, students and staff in the cast and crew and the supporting families, all who have been committed since Term 4 last year, including Sundays! Tonight was a magical display of the exquisite talents of so many in our community, creating memories to last a lifetime. Words cannot describe the joy that all in the audience experienced, but more importantly, the joy that was so clearly evident on the faces of the performers. Bravo!"*

# Alumni Scene AT "OLIVER!"



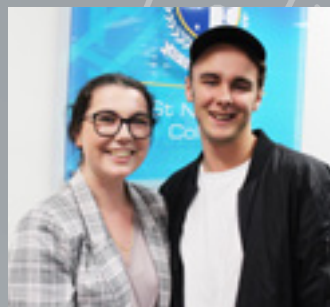
Simone McMahon (Class of 1999), Emma Lenane (nee Brown, Class of 2000,) and Tim Telcik (Class of 1987). Simone was glad to return to her old school and really enjoyed the performance: "As a former SNC drama student it is always lovely to come back to the Xanten Centre and see how the performing arts program continues to grow! 'Oliver!' was a truly enjoyable evening, showcasing some amazing talent. A big congratulations to all staff and students involved in making the show such a tremendous success."



Darlene Min (nee LeGuay, Class of 1992) and her daughter Chanelle, who is in Year 7 at St Norbert College, were enthralled by the production. Darlene was very effusive in her praise of all the cast and crew involved: "'Oliver!' was thoroughly enjoyable. I was in absolute awe of every detail of the production. The acting, singing, dancing, music and set were outstanding and I was equally impressed with the smooth transition of scenes orchestrated by the backstage crew. Every person involved in the production made it the wonderful success it was. Fantastically entertaining and a real testimony to brilliant teamwork!"



Tracy Gall (nee Lawrence, Class of 1988) and her daughter Sophie really enjoyed "Oliver!" and Tracy also enjoyed returning to Treasure Road for the first time in 30 years and catching up with fellow former students, teachers and Fr Peter. "Sophie totally loved it and was in awe of all the actors' performances," Tracy said. "We saw 'Oliver!' in London and Sophie said the St Norbert production was at the same high standard we saw over there. Kerri Hilton, along with all the performing and support crew did an amazing job; the performance was perfectly polished and we can't wait for the next production. Congratulations and well done to all involved - you did St Norbert's proud!"



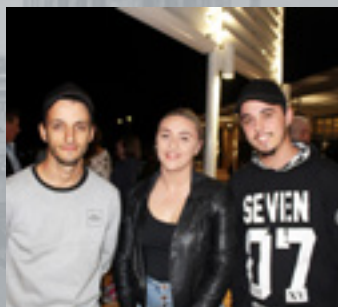
Chloe McLevie and Lucas Kininmonth (both Class of 2017) were looking forward to seeing the production. Chloe is having a gap year before commencing a midwifery course in Melbourne in 2019 and Lucas is currently studying a course in leadership.



Caiden Vales de Menezes (Class of 2015), who is currently completing a degree in primary school education, is a big fan of "Oliver!": "It was an amazing and engaging production! The excellent props, music, acting, singing and costumes made it an enjoyable experience!"



Lynn Stone (nee LeGuay, Class of 1985) came to "Oliver!" for the show and to support her nephew: "I was very impressed with the dedication and hard work that was put into producing the show. I know personally how much rehearsal and time the students, teachers and everyone involved committed themselves to as my nephew took part in the production. Everything was so well done from the props and costumes to the singing and acting. I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the show."



A big delegation of the Cirillo family were in attendance to support the cast and crew on the opening night of "Oliver!", including Jason (Class of 2012), Jacinda (Class of 2017) and Matthew (Class of 2015).



Peter Palermo and his daughter Olivia (Class of 2009) really enjoyed "Oliver!" and appreciated the effort put in to the production because Jenny Palermo - Peter's wife and Olivia's mother - was the junior singing coach and hairdresser. Olivia was excited to see so many St Norbert College students passionate about the arts. "I hope they made lots of memories during 'Oliver!' that they will cherish forever," she said.



# Alumni Scene AT "OLIVER!"



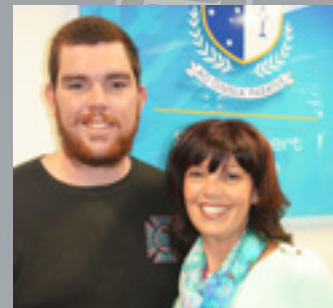
Tom Thistlewaite (Class of 2017) thoroughly enjoyed "Oliver!" and it also brought back happy memories of his drama experience at St Norbert College: "Oliver! was an amazing performance and I enjoyed every song. It brought back so many memories from all my years in the College's drama club and it was mind-blowing to see those who were once the new members of the club when I was there, become the true talented performers they are today. Performing arts is such a big part of people's lives and that's due to shows and opportunities like these and wonderful, caring people like Miss Kerri Hilton, a teacher who helped me love the theatre. I look forward to the next production and for those who missed this performance, get your tickets early next time!" Tom is currently studying law and politics at the University of Western Australia.



Adelaide Gabriel (Class of 1999), pictured with her sister Sharon Ndossi, is a medical receptionist at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital who thought the show was absolutely fantastic. "We all really enjoyed ourselves and thought it was very professionally done. You could tell the staff and students had put a lot of effort and hard work into the production," Adelaide said. Sharon's daughters Shannette (Year 8) and Regina (Year 10) were cast members in the production and this added to the enjoyment of the occasion for Sharon. "I was very proud of the performance of the whole cast, the musicians and the teachers and volunteers who were part of the show. St Norbert College has a very good performing arts program, all largely due to Miss Hilton," Sharon said.



Ireneo Sanchez (Class of 2013) is currently studying forensic biology and toxicology at Murdoch University but put his studies on hold to enjoy a night out with his family at "Oliver!".



Vinnie Keynes (Class of 2013) and his mother Mel really enjoyed "Oliver!". Vinnie is currently completing a secondary teaching degree in health and physical education and is just about to commence his final teaching practicum at John Paul College in Kalgoorlie.



Brett Grieve (Class of 1989) was proud to enjoy "Oliver!" with his daughter Mya at his old school, and really enjoyed the experience: "The whole night was fantastic, from the delightful theatre, the greeting staff who showed us to our seats and finally the extremely talented students who performed on and off stage. The students' performance was at an extremely professional standard. I was informed that only one of the 49 performers had previous experience performing musicals but I can honestly say that this did not appear to be the case, as they all were so professional and gave the impression that they had years of experience. I would like to congratulate everyone involved in creating such a delightful rendition of the musical 'Oliver!'."



Sabrina Cocking (nee Martin, Class of 1987) and Winsome Roch (nee Watts, Class of 1987) were looking forward to the production on Saturday night, and Sabrina was not disappointed: "The St Norbert College presentation of 'Oliver!' was thoroughly entertaining. The entire ensemble brought vibrancy to a performance that was a pleasure to watch. The vulnerability of Oliver was wonderfully portrayed by Tyler Daltyn. Chloe Hewitt's performance of 'As Long As He Needs Me' was beautiful and touching. Michael Ryan conveyed the brutality of Bill Sikes rightly. However, the stand out for me was Blake Jenkins' portrayal of Fagin, which was captivating. Well done to everyone involved in the production...you are all so talented and should feel very proud of your achievements. Can't wait for the next one!" Sabrina is a biologist and Winsome works in catering in the hospitality industry.



# Alumni Scene AT "OLIVER!"



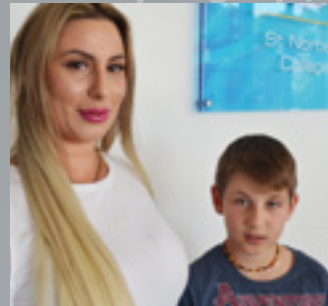
*Ashley Joseph (Class of 2015) is currently working in hospitality as a bartender but took a night off work to enjoy "Oliver!".*



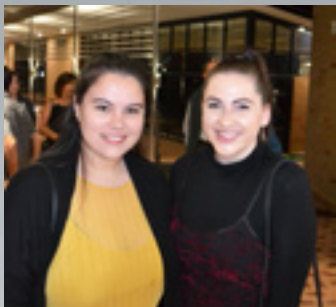
*Sean Spiegl (Class of 2017) attended the Saturday matinee performance of "Oliver!". He is currently studying computer science at Curtin University.*



*Susan Taylor (nee Lisbey, Class of 1990) is a quarantine officer with the Department of Agriculture based at Perth Airport. Susan enjoyed "Oliver!" with her son Josh who is a Year 7 Tongerlo student, and she also has Kyran in Year 9.*



*Sera Schiavoni (Class of 2004) enjoyed the Saturday matinee performance with her son Aden. Sera works as a beautician.*



*Jessica Ingram and Kelsey Zampino (both Class of 2015) were looking forward to the Saturday night performance of "Oliver!". Jessica is studying medical science at the University of Western Australia and Kelsey is doing secondary teaching at Curtin University.*



*Nicole Alconaba, Isabella Giuffre, Mara Homez, Ella Janelle Untalan, Jeslina Pereira and Isabella Hancock perform in "Oliver!".*

# SNESA *The Season so Far...*

We are happy to announce that for the first time in our history, SNESA Football Club has fielded a third senior team in the WAAFL. Due to our recent promotion to C2 Grade, we have enjoyed an increase in numbers. We've had success with a lot of new registered players and also a lot of old faces coming back for a kick. Approximately 70% of our playing group are ex-students, however we also welcome friends and associates from the local and greater community to come and play for us. With a new grade, comes new competition and a new opportunity for us to grow and succeed together. We missed out on the flag last year but we will have the depth and the ability to develop the skills and experience of the playing group providing as much game time as possible for all our players.

David Van Raalte continues as League coach with the assistance of our Vice President Mark Lupica (Class of 2005), who also coaches our Reserves team and Jacob Cornwall coaching our Thirds side. Caius Kelly (Class of 2009) has taken the reins as captain for 2018, with last year's skipper Mark Colace (Class of 2009) out for the season with a torn ACL. Mark Colace has joined the coaching team as midfield coach and David Frawley (Class of 2004) is the captain of our Reserves team. We have a great leadership group, an outstanding committee overseeing the club and amazing volunteers that are growing in numbers by the minute.

We've welcomed back some ex-students into the team this year with Joel Fiegert (Class of 2007) providing some run through the midfield and Brendan Colkers (Class of 2004) returning after 18 months off with a knee injury. It's also great to see five current students from St Norbert College making their mark on the SNESA Football Club. Josh Dobbs (Class of 2017), Lennon Butler, Noel Mancuveni, Hunter Montgomery and Nyika John (all Class of 2018) have all made their league debuts this year and put in some fantastic efforts. Nick (Class of 2017) and Jason Lamb (Class of 2018), Brad Robinson (Class of 2016) and Michael Pambuka (Class of 2018) have also been training hard and will hopefully continue to push for selection. With more experience, these boys are sure to excel and the future of the club looks bright!

It's taken us a bit of time to acclimatise to our new competition, with our League team still without a win after five rounds. However, our Reserves and Thirds teams have both enjoyed two wins each which continues to build morale and enjoyment among our members. It is a new look League team with only seven players from our 2017 grand final team playing this year and we trust as the season goes on we will see the chemistry build. We have a number of events coming up this year, including our Brother Patrick Memorial Game in July. So, everyone is welcome to stay in touch by following our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages, and we look forward to seeing you at Soklich & Co Oval very soon.

Rafic Aoun  
SNESA President



SNESA Amateur Football Club President Rafic Aoun (Class of 2004).



Joel Parker (Class of 2012) is stretchered off the ground after sustaining a season-ending knee injury in the opening League round at Soklich & Co Oval.



# SNESA *The Season so Far...*



Captain Caius Kelly (Class of 2009) leads the League team on to Soklich & Co Oval.



Ricardo Napoli, Jake Hall, Thomas Watson (all Class of 2015), Walter Julien (Class of 2014) and Josh Italiano.



Lennon Butler and Noel Mancuveni (both Class of 2018) have been playing some impressive football.



Reserves team captain David Frawley (Class of 2004) and his French Bulldog Coby.



Anthony Lo Presti (Class of 2002), Ben Rigg (Class of 2007), Reserves coach Mark Lupica (Class of 2005) and Jarrad Westcott celebrate victory.



# SNESA *The Season so Far...*



Ben Rigg (Class of 2007) is chaired off Soklich & Co Oval by his teammates after a four-point victory over Dianella-Morley in Round 5 made Ben's 150th game just that little bit more enjoyable. Proud dad - and team waterboy - Phil looks on in the background.



An exhausted Damien Cirillo (Class of 2007) after his team's four-point victory over Dianella-Morley.



League coach David Van Raalte addresses his players at three-quarter time.



Family day at Soklich & Co Oval.

## SNESA TEAM POSITIONS AFTER ROUND 8 (May 25th)

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Points	Position (on %)	Position (on points)
League C2	8	1	7	4	10/10	Equal 9th
Reserves C2	8	5	3	20	5/10	Equal 3rd
Thirds E3	8	3	5	12	8/13	Equal 6th





# SNESA *Footy Action*





# SNESA *Footy Action*







**ST NORBERT COLLEGE**

135 Treasure Road Queens Park WA 6107

Tel: (08) 9350 5433 • Fax: (08) 9356 1602 • Email: [snc@norbert.wa.edu.au](mailto:snc@norbert.wa.edu.au)

[www.norbert.wa.edu.au](http://www.norbert.wa.edu.au)